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ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL  
OFFICER  
OF  
HEALTH

FOR THE  
YEAR 1942






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# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1942

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HECKMONDWIKE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr, Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for 1942, on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the District. The Report is prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

Dr. C. Grant Nicol resigned as from October 31st, and his successor was appointed from December 1st. At the end of October Miss Holmes, Health Visitor was released for service with H.M. Forces, The services of a Temporary Nurse was available for Clinics, but regretablely Health Visiting was in abeyance for the last months of the year, pending a new appointment. Furthermore, Mr. A. K. Greenwood retired in July from his post as Sanitary Inspector, and was succeeded by Mr. Housecroft from Grimsby County Borough Staff.

The year under review was a healthy one, although the incidence of Scarlet Fever was higher than usual and Tuberculosis notifications exceeded the average for the previous fifteen years; there were no visitations of major epidemic disease and only one death was recorded from contagious disease (excluding Pneumonia and Tuberculosis). The Birth Rate rose sharply and the Death Rate decreased from the previous two years respectively; the Infantile Mortality Rate showed a slight decrease over the same period. These significant Returns applicable not only to your town but to the country as a whole in the third year of war are as remarkable as they are reassuring.

My acknowledgments are due to fellow officials who provided necessary returns and in special measure to Mr. Housecroft, the Sanitary Inspector, and Miss Worthington, the Health Visitor for their assistance in the preparation of this Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN BATTERSBY.

# PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

## Medical Officer of Health—

C. G. NICOL, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., (Jan. 1—Oct. 31)

J. BATTERSBY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed from Dec. 1)

## Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare.

AGNES W. JERVIS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.

## Consulting Obstetric Surgeon—

D. W. CURRIE, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.

## Health Visitor and School Nurse—

ETHEL H. HOLMES, S.R.W., S.C.M., H.V. (New Cert.)  
until October 31st.

## Sanitary Inspector—

ERIC M. HOUSECROFT, M.R.S.L., M.S.I.A.,  
from August 17th.

## A—GENERAL STATISTICS—Area (in Acres) 696.

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate	...	8186
Population (as per Ration Books)	...	8388
Number of Inhabited Houses	... ..	2674
Number of Separate Families	... ..	2583 (1931 Census)
Rateable Value	... ..	£48,439
Product of a Penny Rate	... ..	£187 6s. 6d.

## Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS—The Nett Live Births Number...	134
(68 Male, 66 Female)	
The Birth Rate is therefore	... 17'47
STILL BIRTHS—Numbered	... 9
(5 Male, 4 Female)	
Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	1'10
DEATHS—Totalled	... 108
(61 Male, 47 Female)	
Giving a Death Rate (crude) of	13'19
MATERNAL MORTALITY—One Death was Returned	
Rate for Heckmondwike	... 6'58
INFANT MORTALITY—	
Deaths of Children under One	
Year numbered	... 8
(6 Male, 2 Female)	
Giving an Infant Mortality Rate of	55'94
DIARRHOEA under 2 years—There were no deaths from this	
cause	



## Comparative Figures.

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	England & Wales		148 Smaller Towns		Heckmondwike		
	1941	1942	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942
Live Births ...	14·2	15·8	16·4	18·4	11·9	13·95	17·47
Still Births ...	0·51	·54	0·60	·62	0·59	0·71	1·10
Deaths (all Causes)	12·9	11·6	13·	12·1	15·1	14·06	13·19
(Rates per 1,000 Live Births)—							
Infant Mortality	59·0	49·0	56·0	46	58·8	58·0	55·94
Diarrhoea under							
2 years ...	5·1	5·2	4·6	4·8	9·9	Nil	Nil
(Rates per 1,000 Total Births)—							
Maternal Mortality	2·23	2·01	—	—	Nil	Nil	6·58

## Causes of Death.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	Nil	Bronchitis ...	4
Cerebrospinal Fever ...	1	Pneumonia ...	7
Scarlet Fever ...	Nil	Ulcer Stomach or Duodenum	1
Whooping Cough ...	Nil	Other Digestive Disturbances	Nil
Diphtheria ...	Nil	Anthrax ...	Nil
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	4	Nephritis ...	5
Tuberculosis (other Forms)	Nil	Premature Birth ...	4
Influenza ...	Nil	Congenital Malformations	
Measles ...	Nil	Birth Injuries, etc. ...	3
Cancer (all Sites) ...	22	Suicide ...	Nil
Diabetes ...	Nil	Road Traffic Accidents ...	1
Heart Disease... ..	27	All Other Causes ...	16
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...			10
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...			3

## B—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

It is the wish of the Ministry that remarks under this section should be confined to important alterations, rather than a recital of long-standing arrangements. There is no such important change to record.

### Maternity and Nursing Homes.

During 1942, the Registrar reported the registration of the births of 105 infants born in the home. Of these the parents of 30 resided in Heckmondwike, and 75 resided elsewhere. 2 still births occurred in the home; the parents in each case did not reside in this town.

### Ante-Natal Clinic.

I am indebted to Dr. Agnes W. Jervis, Medical Officer to the Ante-Natal Clinic, for the following report:—

Individual Patients attending the Clinic ...	85
Patients found Normal ...	45
Patients found suffering from one or more Defects	40
Total Number of attendances at Clinic ...	202
Average Attendance per Patient ...	2·3

## Defects Classified.

Respiratory excluding Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4
Circulatory excluding Varicose Veins	...	...	...	...	5
Digestive excluding Defective Teeth and Constipation					Nil
Urinary System	...	...	...	...	6
Small or Deformed Pelvis	...	...	...	...	1
Varicose Veins	...	...	...	...	11
Hæmorrhoids	...	...	...	...	8
Constipation	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Teeth and Pyorrhœa	...	...	...	...	18
Anæmia and Debility	...	...	...	...	7
Scabies	...	...	...	...	2

## History of Labours.

Normal Deliveries	...	...	...	...	88
Twin Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	3
Induction	...	...	...	...	1
Breech Delivery	...	...	...	...	2
Cæsarean Section (a) Contracted Pelvis (b) Fibroids					2
Placenta Prævia	...	...	...	...	1
Still Births (a) Cause Unknown (b) Large Child					
(c) Twin Premature (d) Twin Macerated					4
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Transferred to other Districts			...	...	2
Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cases not yet Delivered (December 31st, 1942)	...				20

## “To the Medical Officer of Health”

Sir,

I am pleased to present the record of the Ante-Natal Clinic for the year 1942. The number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinic was 85, 2 less than the figures for the previous year. These mothers made a total of attendances which works out at 2·3 attendances each.

The subjoined table give a complete analysis of all the cases including the results of the confinements and the physical state of the mothers. Notwithstanding war-time restrictions and hardships, the standard of health of the women has remained good. In only a few cases have there been signs of malnutrition and these, in the main, were the result of poverty and the lack of knowledge of the kind of food to buy and the proper method of preparing it.

In previous reports, I have had occasion to draw attention to the inordinate amount of Oral Sepsis largely from Pyorrhœa and Carious Teeth. It is gratifying to be able to report some improvement. The number of mothers exhibiting this condition was 25% as compared with 29% the previous year. Even so, to have as many as 25% suffering from a condition well known to be a contributory cause of Puerperal Sepsis and other conditions, notably Rheumatism, is not creditable and points to the necessity for the establishment of a regular dental service.



Constipation, which in previous years, has been the subject of criticism, also shows a very gratifying improvement, probably due to the substitution of wholemeal for white bread and the greater amount of roughage present in the daily diet.

The friendly relations with the Heckmondwike Maternity Home and with the District Midwife have been maintained and to this must be attributed, in no small measure, the good results achieved during the year.

I should like, in particular, to pay tribute to the efficient service rendered by Nurse Holmes, the Health Visitor, who left the staff in November to join H. M. Forces.

AGNES W. JERVIS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.

## HEALTH VISITING.

### Number of Visits paid during the Year by the Health Visitor.

(a)	To Expectant Mothers	...	...	First Visits	32
				Total Visits	41
(b)	To Children under 1 year	...	...	First Visits	107
				Total Visits	605
(c)	To Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years,			Total Visits	770
	Visits to Cases of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11
	Still-Birth	...	...	...	Nil
	Measles	...	...	...	Nil
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	10
	Chicken Pox	...	...	...	Nil
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	11
	Mumps	...	...	...	Nil
	Total Visits as Health Visitor				1587

### School Nursing Duties.

Visits to Children in their Homes	...	...	33
Visits to Schools	...	...	32

### School Clinic.

The West Riding County Council is the Administrative Authority in this area for School Medical Services, including the School Clinic. By arrangement with Heckmondwike Urban District Council the services of the Health Visitor are available as School Nurse. The Medical Officer of Health attends weekly for consultation.

Number of Scholars who attended the Clinic	...	978
Total Attendances	...	2965
Number Examined by Medical Officer	...	506

### Infant Welfare Centre.

Total Number of Attendances during the Year		
By Infants under 1 year	...	1151
By Children 1 to 5 years	...	440

Total Number of Children who attended the Centre for the first time during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were

Under 1 year	...	...	82
Between 1 and 5 years	...	...	24

Total Number of Children attending the Centre during the year who at the end of the year were

Under 1 year	...	...	67
Between 1 and 5 years	...	...	117

### Child Life Protection.

The Health Visitor, who acts as Visitor for this purpose, has had no call on her services during 1942.

## C. 1—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### (i) Water Supply.

An adequate presentation of all aspects of this subject would be a lengthy matter; too brief a report might well be misleading. Comment is therefore deferred until the Post-War Annual Report, but a summary of the Bacteriological Reports from the County Laboratory is given below.

#### Samples of Water taken during 1942.

SOURCE OF SAMPLE	TOTAL	NUMBER OF SAMPLE CONTAINING B COLI.								
		B Coli per 100 ml.								
		Presumptive					Confirmatory Fæcal (Ei. kjman)			
		1	2	6	9	16	2	8	6	
<b>Untreated —</b>										
Broadstone Res.	12	2	1	1	1		2			
<b>Treated—</b>										
Inlet—Whitley Res. ...	53	1								
Outlet—Whitley Res. ...	53	2	3	2		2	1	1		
<b>As supplied to Towns in Towns—</b>										
Staincliffe ...	53	1		2	1			1	1	
	171	6	4	5	2	2	3	2	1	

### (ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension to the Council's Drainage and Sewerage during the year.



There are 31 premises in the area that are not connected to the Sewerage Scheme, extension of existing sewers to include these properties is overdue.

(iii) I am indebted to Mr. Housecroft, Sanitary Inspector, for the following Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the area.

### **SECTION C. 3 (i) Closet Accommodation.**

Number of Privies (covered) ... ..	17
Number of Water Closets ... ..	2944
Number of Waste Water Closets ... ..	68

### **SECTION C. 3 (ii) Public Cleansing and Salvage.**

As from September, 1942, Cleansing and Salvage came under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, prior to this the Surveyor had been the officer responsible for its control.

Refuse desposal up to May, 1942, was by Incineration at the Destructor Works in Beck Lane, it was then changed to Controlled Tipping, the tip being situated at the Sewage Works.

At the same time that the Destructor was closed down the collection of Household Refuse and Salvage were separated, and a collection on separate weeks instituted.

The amount of Refuse collected was as follows:—

714 Loads Domestic Refuse to the Destructor
80 Loads Trade Refuse to the Destructor
728 Loads Domestic Refuse to the Controlled Tip
620 Loads Salvage
410 Loads Clinkers tipped at New North Road

There are approximately 2350 Metal Dust Bins in the area. The number of Ashpits is 140 which should be replaced by Metal Dust Bins.

Two Vehicles are used—1 Morris 7 cwt. cubic yards Refuse Vehicle and for Refuse Collection—1 Morris 30 cwt. Open Tipping Wagon.

### **SECTION C. (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

#### **Work of the Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulation, 1935.**

Description of work carried out during 1942 from records available.

Total Number of Inspections made ... ..	985
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#### **Details as follows:—**

Nuisances ... ..	50
Nuisances Abated ... ..	44
Choked Drains ... ..	6
Choked Drains Cleared ... ..	6
Number of Houses Affected ... ..	12
Drains Tested ... ..	2
Scabies Order ... ..	27



Infectious Diseases ..	...	...	...	...	40
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	58
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	28
Houses Let in Lodgings...	...	...	...	...	5
Length of Defective Drains Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	24 ft.
New Traps to Gullies Fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Rain Water Pipes Disconnected from Drains or Repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Defective W.C's.	...	...	...	...	5
New W.C Basins Fixed...	...	...	...	...	3
New W.C. Wood Seats Fixed...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. Cisterns Renewed or Repaired	...	...	...	...	3
W.C's. Choked	...	...	...	...	2
W.C's. Cleared	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Stone Sinks	...	...	...	...	3
Salt Glazed Sinks Fixed	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Sink Waste Pipes Repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Kitchen Ranges	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Kitchen Ranges Repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney Stacks Rebuilt	...	...	...	...	1
Lengths of New Eaves Spouts Fixed	...	...	...	...	12 ft.
Defective Dustbins...	...	...	...	...	10
New Bins Supplied	...	...	...	...	7
Ashpits Abolished	...	...	...	...	1
Dustbins Supplied in Lieu	...	...	...	...	4
Water Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations Removed after Notice	...	...	...	...	1
Burst Water Pipes Repaired	...	...	...	...	2

### Notices Served.

Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	82
Informal Notices Complied with	...	...	...	76
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	15
Statutory Notices Complied with	...	...	...	—

### Factory Act Inspections.

Total Visits	...	...	...	...	...	7
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## D—HOUSING.

There is no Major Alteration to Report.

## SECTION E—INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### A—Milk Supply.

Two Licenses to sell Graded Milk were granted. One for *Tuberculin-Tested (Certified) Milk* and One for *Pasteurised Milk*.

### Dairies and Milkshops.

Number of Premises	...	17 Milkshops
	...	6 Dairies

**Cowsheds.**

Number of Cowsheds	...	...	...	8
Number of Milch Cows (average)			...	80
Number of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	4
	who Retail Milk	...		3
Retail Purveyors with Premises in Heckmondwike				6
Retail Purveyors with Premises outside H'wike				25

**E—MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**

There is no Slaughterhouse in use here, all slaughtering taking place outside the area.

**Inspection under 1938 Food and Drugs Act**

Details of Inspections—

Bakehouses	...	...	111
Cowsheds	...		10
Dairies and Milkshops	...		73
Fried Fish Shops	...		42
Ice Cream Premises	...		28
Slaughterhouses	...		98

During the year  $8\frac{1}{2}$  cwts. of Foodstuff was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

**Bakehouses—**

There is one Underground Bakehouse in the area.

**Rats and Mice Destruction Act—**

Visits	...	...	10
Houses Rat Proofed			1

**Common Lodging Houses—**

There is only one Common Lodging House in the district, the condition of which is unsatisfactory. Statutory Action is pending.

**F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

During 1942 notifications received in respect of Infectious Disease (excluding Tuberculosis) distributed as follows—

	1941	1942
Scarlet Fever	14	40
Whooping Cough	50	21
Diphtheria	1	4
Measles	88	25
Acute Pneumonia	6	6
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
Acute Encephalitis	Nil	Nil

			1941	1942
Dysentery	...	...	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	2	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	3	Nil
Small Pox	...	...	Nil	Nil

## Scarlet Fever —

There were two peak periods, one in February and March, and the other in October, November and December, which were seasonal in character. No other infection was notably prevalent.

## Tuberculosis —

New Cases		Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	...	9	3	12
Non-Pulmonary	...	—	1	1

AGE GROUPS		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
0- 1	...	—	—	—	—
1- 5	...	—	—	—	—
5-10	...	1	—	—	1
10-15	...	—	—	—	—
15-20	...	1	1	—	—
20-25	...	2	2	—	—
25-35	...	1	—	—	—
35-45	...	1	—	—	—
45-55	...	2	—	—	—
55-65	...	1	—	—	—
65 and over...		—	—	—	—
		9	3	—	1

## Scabies—

One hundred cases of Scabies were treated during 1942 in the following Groups—Male 14, Female 24, Children under 16—62. Under previous arrangements patients are referred to Batley for the initial bath and application of Benzyl Benzoate and the second bath taken at the First Aid Post, Heckmondwike. Disinfection of bedding, etc. was conducted at Batley.

## Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Under the Scheme provided by the Ministry of Health the following Immunisations were conducted during the year and the estimated percentage immunised in children under 5, and between the ages of 5 and 15 are appended.

Immunised under 5	...	...	...	83
Estimated percentage Immunised at end of year	...			35%
Immunised between 5 and 15	...	...		187
Estimated percentage Immunised at end of year	...			66%





